

Water Funding Task Force Meeting

August 29, 2013 | Embassy Suites Conference Center, 12520 Westport Parkway | La Vista, NE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites, La Vista, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*

Garry Anderson, *NRC*

Joel Christiansen, *MUD*

Dave Deines, *NRC*

Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*

Joseph Hergott, *NRC*

Thomas Knutson, *NRC*

Steven Sugden, *NRC*

Darrell Rains, *NRC*

Michael Reynolds, *NRC*

Scott Smathers, *Outdoor Recreation Users*

Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*

Brian Barels, *Public Power*

Stan Clouse, *NRC*

Beverly Donaldson, *NRC*

John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*

Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*

Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*

Keith Rexroth, *NRC*

Gerry Dale Sheets, *Public Power and Irrigation Districts*

Jeff Steffen, *NRC*

Dick Mercer, *NRC*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson

Senator Al Davis

Senator Ken Schilz

Senator Mark Christensen

Senator Dan Watermeier

Rex Gittins as designee for Brian Dunnigan

The following members were absent: Lennie Adams, Dave Deines, Richard Hadenfeldt, David Kadlecsek, D. Chandler Mazour, Senator Rick Kolowski.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, August 29th session:

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2013
- Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Work Plan
- Nebraska Resources Development Fund Financial Status – August, 26, 2013
- “Lower Platte Natural Resources District”
- “Urban & Rural Water Management, Conservation & Water Developments for Nebraska’s Economic Future”
- “Lower Platte South Natural Resources District”
- “Survey of State Water Programs”
- Water Funding Task Force Tour Agenda for August 30th

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Clint Johannes stated that Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517). A copy of Nebraska's public meeting statutes was available in the room.

Mr. Johannes requested that anyone wishing to provide public comment at today's session please sign the "Speaker" sign-in sheet at the sign-in table.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August 22nd and 23rd meeting were presented.

Joel Christiansen moved and Scott Smathers seconded the motion to adopt the August 22nd and 23rd, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

PROJECT STATUS

Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates, reviewed changes to the DNR website, discussed access issues for the MindMixer site, and provided an overview of the day's agenda. In addition to speakers noted on the agenda, invited guests include the UNL Water Center and Groundwater Foundation members.

EDUCATION SESSION - Morning

John Miyoshi, General Manager, presented "Lower Platte North Natural Resources District." Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Break

Paul Brakhage, LakeTech, presented "State Water Funding Programs." Discussion followed. The Task Force asked for additional information on funding programs of surrounding states. This will be provided at a future session. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Review Of Previous Meeting Discussion On Criteria

Karen Griffin reviewed the previous meeting discussion on criteria. She presented the initial ranking criteria, proposed mega categories and options A and B for application. She then reviewed the definitions for LB517 four categories. Discussion followed regarding additional criteria discussed last week including:

- Consider unmet needs
- Consider ability to pay
- Consider bang for the buck
- Provide for credit for recharge
- Consider timing or urgency of need

Lunch – Groundwater Foundation Educational Demonstration

EDUCATION SESSION - Afternoon

Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, presented "Lincoln Water System." Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Roric Paulman, agricultural producer, Sutherland, NE, presented "Agricultural Water Conservation Technologies" Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Patti Banks, with Vireo, reviewed the Task Force Work Plan and provided an overview of tomorrow's criteria and ranking exercise.

PUBLIC COMMENTS 3:52 PM

Karen Griffin requested that anyone who signed-in to please come forward to provide public comment. No individuals signed in to provide comment.

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Ann Williams, *HDR*
- George Hunt, *HDR*
- Rachel Herpel, *University of NE*
- Laurie Lage, *Legislative*
- Pat O'Brien, *UNWNRD*
- Rick Kubat, *Metropolitan V District*
- Stu Luttick
- Dustin Wilcox, *NARD*
- Marlin Peterman, *PMRNRD*
- Jeff Buettner, *CNPPID*
- Don Adams, *Nebraska First*
- Kevin Tobin, *MUD*
- Jay Rempe, *Farm Bureau*

WHAT'S NEXT

Karen Griffin reviewed the agenda and tour for Friday, August 30th. She also requested that all Task Force expense reimbursement sheets be provided to members of the consultant team for processing.

Meeting recessed for the day at 3:55 PM

The Water Funding Task Force reconvened at 8:00 AM on Friday, August 30th, 2013 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center, 12520 Westport Parkway | La Vista, NE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center, La Vista, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*

Garry Anderson, *NRC*

Joel Christiansen, *MUD*

Dave Deines, *NRC*

Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*

Joseph Hergott, *NRC*

Thomas Knutson, *NRC*

Steven Sugden, *NRC*

Darrell Rains, *NRC*

Michael Reynolds, *NRC*

Scott Smathers, *Outdoor Recreation Users*

Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*

Brian Barels, *Public Power*

Stan Clouse, *NRC*

Beverly Donaldson, *NRC*

John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*

Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*

Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*

Keith Rexroth, *NRC*

Gerry Dale Sheets, *Public Power and Irrigation Districts*

Jeff Steffen, *NRC*

Dick Mercer, *NRC*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson

Senator Al Davis

Rex Gittins as designee for Brian Dunnigan

Senator Mark Christensen

Senator Rick Kolowski

The following members were absent: Lennie Adams, Dave Deines, Richard Hadenfeldt, David Kadlecek, D. Chandler Mazour.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, August 29th session:

- Agenda
- Nemaha Natural Resources District Handout
- "Lower Platte North Natural Resources District Plan"

Mr. Johannes requested that anyone wishing to provide public comment at today's meeting please sign the "Speaker" sign-in sheet at the sign-in table.

Mr. Johannes then gave a brief overview regarding next week's tour in Grand Island and the Task Force schedule for the month of October.

EDUCATION SESSION - Morning

Bob Hilske, General Manager, presented “ Nemaha Natural Resources District.” Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Paul Zillig, Assistant Manager, presented “Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.” Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Review of Previous Meeting Discussion on Criteria

Patti Banks reviewed yesterday’s presentation and discussion on LB517 category’s, proposed mega categories and options A and B for application. Discussion followed regarding how the group would move forward. Volunteers including John Heaston, Clint Johannes, Senator Christiansen, and Senator Watermeier agreed to assist in creating a working example of criteria application and testing.

Patti Banks then led the group in a criteria ranking exercise for infrastructure and integrated management. Criteria were distributed on strips of paper for members to distribute into nine buckets by category. The results of the ranking exercise will be evaluated and tested on a short list of projects by the subcommittee and presented at the September 5&6 session.

Summary of Previous Meeting Discussion on Funding Sources.

Patti Banks presented a summary of the previous meeting discussion on funding sources. There was a question raised between last meeting and this relative to the consideration of incentives. The Task Force members discussed the incentive idea and added the following incentives for further consideration:

- Install water monitoring technologies and receive higher allocation
- Incentive for cropping rotations
- Incentivize water savings through tax credit
- Combine cropping pattern and water savings for higher allocations
- Three year allocations
- Federal Conservation Security Program example of incentives – EQUIP
- Incentive to pay for monitoring device up front and producer pays back over several years.
- Expand funding available to incentive programs across the state

Discussion then shifted to the list of funding sources developed at the last session. Task Force members made the following additions to the funding options list:

- Property tax – difficult to implement in Nebraska
- Impact fee
- Tax on food
- Transient bed tax
- Personal property tax on intangibles

Members were provided 6 red dots to identify those funding sources they thought should be eliminated. Results will be summarized at the next meeting.

WHAT’S NEXT

Karen Griffin reviewed the day’s tour specifics.

PUBLIC COMMENTS 11:44 AM

Karen Griffin requested that anyone who signed-in to please come forward to provide public comment. No

individuals signed in to provide comment.

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Jerry Johnson, *Senator 23rd*
- Scott Merritt, *NE Corn Growers*
- Pat O'Brien, *Upper Niobrara-White NRD*
- Ann Williams, *HDR*
- Rick Kubat, *MUD*
- John Miyoshi, *LPNNRD*
- Jeff Buettner, *CNPPID*
- Paul Woodward, *Olsson Associates*
- Dustin Wilcox, *NARD*
- Don Day, *Olsson Associates*
- Rachel Herpel, *University of Nebraska*
- Vicki Twerdochlib, *HDR*
- Scott Merritt, *NE Corn Growers*

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM

Lunch – Short presentation Introduction MUD and Florence Plant Tour

Tour by the Papio-Missouri River NRD and MUD from 1:00 to 3:00 pm